



OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 10

OCT 8, 2009

MEMBERS MEETING

We will be having our annual duck hunting forecast presented by the MDC. Come on out and ask those questions you want to know, here are the experts that will give you that opportunity to get the answers right from the source.

Be sure to come!

DUCK SEASON

Youth Duck Hunt

North Zone Oct. 24-25

Middle Zone, Oct. 31-
Nov 1

South Zone, Nov. 21-
22

Regular Duck Season:

North Zone, Oct. 31-
Dec. 29

Middle Zone, Nov. 7-
Jan. 5

South Zone, Nov. 26-
Jan. 24

The daily limit on ducks is six, including no more than:

-- Mallards, 4 (no more than 2 females)

-- Black ducks, 1

-- Mottled ducks, 1 (new)

-- Pintails, 1

-- Scaup, 2 (new)

-- Wood ducks, 3

-- Redheads, 2

— Canvasbacks 1 (new)

-- Hooded mergansers, 2

-- Other species may be taken in any number up to the daily bag limit of six ducks total.

HUNTS

With the new season upon us, if you have any pictures that you would like to share with your fellow members of these hunts you can email them to me at mvdha@mvdha.com or bring them to me at the members meetings and I will scan them or take them off of your media and post them on the web site and get them back to you.

BANQUETS

Delta TKaskaskia River River Chapter Banquet

When: October 17, 2009

Location: Eagles Lodge 100 Eagle Drive

Shilo, Ill 62221

Contact Name: Mic Middleton

Phone: (618)475-3562 or Chris Parciak at (618) 334-3808

Ticket prices: Single: \$45 Couple: \$55 Youth: \$25 Sponsor Ticket \$250.00 Sponsor Couple \$260.00

WING BOARD

SAVE YOUR WINGS!

We are trying to create a wing board like we had in the past. Save your wings of the different birds you harvest this year, especially the odd ones! Bring them to the members meeting or email me at mvdha@mvdha.com and I will see what I can do to get them from you. Tony, you can donate the Spoonie Wings!

EMIL

It was good to see Emil Poepfelmeier at the last members meeting, glad to have you back and see you up and around Emil!

LETTER OF THANKS

We received a letter of thanks from Steve Whitson, the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge Area Manager and it states:

Thanks for having me at

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your meeting in May. I really enjoyed discussing Swan Lake NWR with you folks. Pass along a special thanks to Bill (Hilgeman) and Bill (Truebe) for their wonderful hospitality and dinner.

Thanks,

Steve Whitson

SNOW GOOSE HUNT

Currently the plan is that the annual Snow Goose hunt is going to take place on the first weekend of February, the 6th and 7th. Contact Bob Richard's for more info. Remember, if you go, a Conservation Order Permit (except for persons 15 years of age and younger) is required to participate in the spring 2010 Conservation Order. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents.

Board Members

Ever had or thought there was a problem with the association? Ever complained about one thing or another on why this association does this or that and should do it this way? Ever thought about becoming a solution to these problems instead of just complaining about them? Here is your chance! This month there will be board member elections. If you are interested in becoming a board member, or if you have questions on becoming a board member, email your questions or interest to mvdha@mvdha.com or mail them to the address on the back of this newsletter and they will be forward to Jerry. If you want to make a change, here is your chance.

Trout Fishing:

Mark your calendars now and reserve your rooms and boats early. Our annual trip to Lake Taneycomo will be from 26 thru 28 of February where we will be staying at the Trout Hollow lodge by Branson Mo.

There are eight condos available that can room up to six people. There are some boats available to rent and boat slips to park your boat in if you need to. You will need to make reservations for the nights of the 26th and the 27th. If you are in need of a room Contact Bob Combs at 314-348-4188 for more info. Rooms are going to fill fast so call early! See you on the water!

CONSERVATION FED

Notes from the Conservation Federation meeting. The big storm in Southeastern MO, on May 8th has been described as an inland hurricane with vast destruction of the Ozark Forests.... flattened trees, root balls exposed, roads covered with debris and damaged buildings etc. Timber prices are low right now so it is not economical to get them to the saw mills. The State of Missouri has applied for FEMA funds to assist in this devastation.

Feral Hogs are a problem in Missouri and to be shot on sight. Hunters have to harvest 70% of the Feral Hogs each year to keep population at current numbers.

On a side not, Tony and I went and enjoyed a wonderful day of sporting clays at the third Annual Sporting Clays Tournament at the River Hills Sporting Clays at Booneville, MO. This facility is first rate! If you missed it, make plans for next year! They really rolled out the Red Carpet for all participants. They had silent auctions and different winner categories for the participants. It was a GREAT time!

Strassenfest

Update, as of the last board meeting this event earned your MVDHA about \$556.00. See Tony's letter in the president's corner. Thanks for all of those who made this success-

MVDHA BOARD

President: Tony Wolf

First V. Pres.:

Scott Combs

2nd V. President:

Chris Wymer

Fin. Secretary:

Bernie Urbas

Rec. Secretary:

Bill Truebe

Correspondence

Secretary: Bill Hilgeman

Membership Chairman:

Bob Richards

Board of Directors:

Jerry Mercurio

Directors:

Don Thoele,

Jim Hoerr,

Terry Moran

Jerry Wymer,

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

Ken Libel,

James Edwards,

Art Wende,

Dale Westerhold

Dave Hamilton

and Tim Koehler

ful, especially to Tony and Chris!

DAVE GRABER

(From the DU's web site)

This year's recipient for the Research/Technical award is Missouri's own David Graber.

"These individuals have each had a tremendous impact on North America's waterfowl habitat," said DU Executive Vice President Don Young as he presented the awards. "DU is proud to recognize their contributions and hopes their personal achievements inspire others to engage in conservation."

David A. Graber's passion for waterfowl can be seen through his 30 years of dedication to improving waterfowl and wetland resources. As an employee of Missouri Department of Conservation, Graber has used comprehensive and practical knowledge of waterfowl biology, land management and hunting to bring credible science to resource managers, resource users and policy makers.

"Dave has served on a number of Mississippi Flyway committees

including Regulations, Wood Duck and Environmental. His collaborative efforts with the University of Missouri have resulted in a number of prominent professionals that will serve waterfowl conservation for years to come. He is a model of professional collaboration," said DU Manager of Conservation Programs, John Coluccy, who nominated him for the award.

Graber has worked tirelessly to advance waterfowl conservation and knowledge. He has been a significant force in a variety of areas including wood duck conservation, waterfowl nutrition, snow and white-fronted goose management, harvest strategy and many other complex waterfowl and wetland conservation issues.

"Throughout his three decades of professional contributions, wildlife managers have sought David's counsel on management issues, researchers have relied on his translations of their science into practical solutions and administrators have depended on him to provide balanced and science-based recommendations for their policy decisions. He is most deserving of

this recognition," Coluccy said.

CANOPY MISSING

The association is missing one of those tent canopies that we use in all of our outdoor functions. If you have it in your garage or house email me at mvdha@mvdha.com or contact Jerry or Tony so we know who has it so that it is accounted for.

DUCK LEASE

Duck lease available, St Charles-Dewit area, Arkansas, next to White River NWR. He wants three groups of five hunters at \$7,500 each, per group or \$1,500 a person and he will pair you up with a group. You will share three rice fields, four ponds, some private timber, if White River floods. Lodging is only \$20.00 a night. These are guided hunts with everything provide. Don says this is a premium place to hunt, so if you are interested in a GREAT lease in Arkansas see Don Thoele or call Phil Horton 1-870-946-

Great news, duck numbers are up!!!

2009 Estimates of May Ponds and Breeding Ducks (in millions)

Species	2008	2009	% Change From 2008	% Change from Long-term Avg.
May Ponds (U.S. & CAN)	4.431	6.434	+45	+31
Total Ducks	37.276	42.005	+13	+25
Mallard	7.724	8.512	+10	+13
Gadwall	2.728	3.054	+12	+73
American wigeon	2.487	2.469	-1	-5
Green-winged teal	2.980	3.444	+16	+79
Blue-winged teal	6.640	7.384	+11	+60
Northern shoveler	3.508	4.376	+25	+92
Northern pintail	2.613	3.225	+23	-20
Redhead	1.056	1.044	-1	+62
Canvasback	0.489	0.662	+35	+16
Scaup	3.738	4.172	+12	-18

3480.

HOME BOUND DUCK HUNTERS

I am starting to put a listing of those members who cannot make it out to any of the members meetings or board meetings because of illness or just home bound. I know this list is possibly incomplete, so if you see somebody who is a member and not on this list, please email me at mvdha@mvdha.com with the person's name and why they are home bound. If you get a chance, give these listed a call or drop them a line, I am sure they would appreciate it.

John Engle Alzheimer's, Emphysema

Lymon Bergmanis Lovingly taking care of his wife who is home bound.

Membership

NOTICE: On your mailing label is your expiration date. If the date is

in the past, please consider rejoining us on the mailing. Family memberships are only \$25.00

eScripts Contribution this past month: 14.48

EScripts is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice.

Here's How it Works

- You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.
- Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.
- Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning.

Bottom line, it costs you nothing. All you have to do is do your normal shopping at listed stores like, Schnucks, Macy's, Orvis, OfficeMax, Pepboys or even American Airlines. This is a no brainer in helping to raise money for your MVDHA with no effort at all, except to hand your eScript card to the check out person. Chris has over 200 cards just waiting for you to call at 636-333-2251 or you can email him at cryptologist3@yahoo.com

Up Coming Events

Oct 14 : Annual Duck hunting forecast presented by the MDC.

Nov 11 : TBD

Dec 9 : Our annual Christmas Party

I've heard that from other guys in the club, too. Hopefully Al Gore can keep us from having to bust too much ice this year. Is it climate change or global warming? Hmmmmm Or is that MMMMMM? Baa-haww hawwwhawww!!!!

Lastly, I checked my reservation today and was denied yet again. My son was also rejected as a first timer to the system. An informal polling of the board members the other night indicated there was substantial if not unanimous support for a preference point system similar to that used for deer hunting in Missouri and elsewhere. In other words, if you weren't chosen this year, your name goes in the drawing twice the following year. Those who are chosen are still entered into the next draw, but only once.

We'll bring this up again, and MVDHA member and area Delta Waterfowl Chapter Pres. Scott Wilson will survey his folks to get their opinion on the matter. Maybe we need to use the power of the pen to get a few things accomplished before next season hits.

Until next time.....

Tony

The President's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen:

October is here and that means our annual duck hunting forecast is but a few days away. I'm sure many of you look forward to the MDC report on the various areas as your thoughts turn to beautiful sunrises in the wetland, steamed breath, the glorious aromas of fried eggs and bacon wafting in the blind, and hopefully the report of your favorite shotgun and high fives all around.

Incase you may have missed the news, Dave Graber is retiring this year. If it isn't reason enough to come out just for the forecast, consider paying your respects to this fine conservationist who has spoken to MVDHA members for many, many years. Word on the street is back in the day they used to pull straws to see which unfortunate soul had to do the presentation. Apparently there were some hard feelings over steel shot and the like, and some of our members weren't always kind to our guests. Dave was the one who often got the nod.

Now, many years later, let's raise our glasses to Dave and enjoy a piece of cake and some memories as we celebrate another hunting season together.

I want to take a moment to publicly thank those who helped with the Strassenfest. In spite of what seems like a poor bang for our buck when you look at the numbers, it was a success in my book. We will most likely do this again next year, and whoever is in charge will be looking for more volunteers than we had this year.

Wally Clever signed up and worked a 3 hour shift. Spouses/girlfriends like Judy Urbas, Anna Wymer, Judy and Carolyn Wolf stepped up, too.....By the way, did I mention it was FUN!!!

Set-up on Thursday was performed by Bob Richards, Chris and Jerry Wymer, Jimmy Hoerr, and Art Wende. Additional set-up on Friday was done by Bernie and Judy Urbas. Workers for Friday evening included Bill Truebe, Bernie Urbas, Bob Combs and his girlfriend Judy, Brad Weidlocher, Jimmy Hoerr and Jerry Wymer. Saturday workers included Bob Richards, Bill Hilgeman, Jerry, Chris, and Anna Wymer, Rob Mueller, Bernie Urbas, Carolyn and Daniel Wolf, and his friend, Joe Niehoff. Sunday workers consisted of Wally Clever, Brad Douglass, Art Wende, Trent Fischer, Bernie Urbas, Rob Mueller, and Carolyn and Daniel Wolf.

Additional thanks goes out to Dave Hamilton for loaning us his trailer, Don Thoele for donating temporary fencing, and James Edwards for materials loaned. I may have left out a double shift for someone here, but I hope they will let that slide. Several of the members above worked double, triple and even quadruple shifts. I can't begin to express my thanks and gratitude to these men, women and youngsters.

I am very pleased to announce that Terry Moran nominated his good friend, Art Wende, for president and Art accepted. Therefore, unless someone is certifiable, it looks as if Art will be taking our organization forward in the coming months and years. On behalf of all of the membership, Art, I say thank you many times over.

Congratulations to young gun, Andrew Combs, who shot his first Canada goose the other day. Way to go Andrew!!! There's a proud dad and two grandpas in our organization on that one.

My mom and I enjoyed the day together on October 5th. As we made our way to Godfrey, snow geese were seen flying over 370 and winging it south. According to Bill Hilgeman and the conservation calendar, that makes sense. Mom says the wooly worms are thick and out and it should be a cold one this year.

(Continued on Page 4)

General Information

This newsletter is distributed to our active members. For members, check your mailing label for when your membership expires. For non-active members check the website for the current newsletter. We have our general meeting the second Wednesday of every month and our Board of Directors' Meeting every fourth Monday. All meetings begin at 7:30 at the American Legion Post Goff – Moll Post 101, at 2721 Collier, Brentwood, Mo. 63144. In case of bad weather call the Post at 314-961-3263 or Tony Wolf at 636-441-3793 or Jerry Mercurio at 636-296-4799.

Visit YOUR web site at <http://www.mvdha.com/> to get the most recent news, events and updates. There you will find this newsletter and other helpful information concerning conservation and the great outdoors that we love. If you would like to be added to the email listing of important news and updates you can do that through the web site through the contact us link, fill out the form and make sure you add your email address.

Any comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter or the website can be sent to mvdha@mvdha.com. I am always looking forwards to suggestions concerning content and what you would like to see or be presented in these publications.

Next members meeting: **October 14, 2009**

Next Board Meeting: **October 26, 2009**

Members are invited to the Board Meeting

All meetings start at 7:30

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DUCK HUNTERS ASSN. INC.

"A Nonprofit Association of, by, and for the Duck Hunters"

"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

P.O. BOX 6, VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

